



**CROWN PACKAGING LTD.**

PAPER MILL DIVISION

1972/3

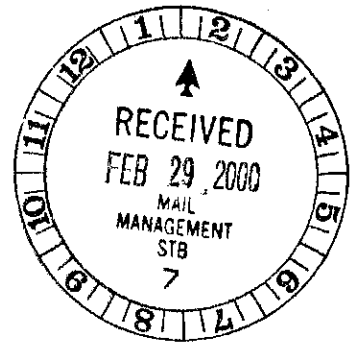
February, 22, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary  
Case Control Unit  
Attn: STB Parte No. 582  
1925 K Street N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

**ENTERED**  
**Office of the Secretary**

**FEB 29 2000**

**Part of**  
**Public Record**



Dear Sir:

Crown Packaging Ltd. is forest products company that is a regular user of rail service in the U.S. and Canada. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issue to be discussed on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers, not on potential downstream effects. The CN-BNSF Combination should be judged on its merit and if other carriers propose mergers, then these cases ought to be evaluated on their merits.

The Timing of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is not the central issue of our company. **Our concern is Service.** Recent mergers have failed on service, not because of timing. Accordingly, **The surface transportation board should focus on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination, and any other future mergers, will deliver service.**

The surface Transportation board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public interest. It should fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to that process. Do not let other railroads use the Surface Transportation Board process to protect themselves and not the shippers.

Yours truly,  
Crown Packaging Ltd.

John B. MacDowell  
Logistics Team leader